

IN THE TITLE:

Please replace the title with the following:

--OPTICAL SCANNING APPARATUS, IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS, AND METHODS OF PERFORMING OPTICAL SCANNING USING OPTICAL SCANNING APPARATUS AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 14, and 16 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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1. (Amended) An optical scanning apparatus comprising:

    a laser unit in which a light source and collimator lens are integrated;

    an incident optical system for making a light beam emerging from said laser unit strike an optical deflector while keeping the light beam wider than a width of a deflecting surface of the optical deflector in a main scanning direction; and

    an imaging optical system for forming the light beam reflected/deflected by the optical deflector into an image on a scanned surface,

    wherein said laser unit is adapted to be shifted by shift adjusting means in a predetermined direction with respect to an optical axis of said incident optical system so as to make an illuminance distribution of scanning lines on the scanned surface become substantially symmetrical about a scanning central axis.

2. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the illuminance distribution on the scanned surface falls within  $\pm 5\%$  with respect to the scanning central axis in an effective scanning range.

14. (Amended) A method for performing optical scanning using an optical scanning apparatus including a laser unit in which a light source and collimator lens are integrated, an incident optical system for making a light beam emerging from the laser unit strike an optical deflector while keeping the light beam wider than a width of a deflecting surface of the optical deflector in a main scanning direction, and an imaging optical system for forming the light beam reflected/deflected by the optical deflector into an image on a scanned surface, the method comprising the step of:

shifting the laser unit in a predetermined direction with respect to the optical axis of the incident optical system so as to make an illuminance distribution of scanning lines on the scanned surface become substantially symmetrical about a scanning central axis.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of providing a controller for converting code data input from an external device into an image signal and inputting the signal to the optical scanning apparatus.